



**MILITIA OF THE
IMMACULATA**
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA

MARIAN Consecration

Preparation for Individual and Parish Marian Consecration in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Week Four

Why Should I Consecrate Myself to Mary?

The year was 1917. A young conventional Franciscan seminarian in Rome witnessed a profane Freemasons demonstration against the Catholic Church and the Pope under the very windows of the Vatican, and his sense of justice and love for the church was aroused. The event inspired Friar Maximilian Kolbe to found the Militia of the Immaculata (MI), a movement of Catholic evangelization, along with six other Franciscans, on October 16th, 1917.

The MI method of outreach was simple. It would encourage “each and every soul” to make a total consecration of themselves to the Immaculate Virgin Mary. This formal act of self-giving would result in personal sanctification, the conversion of Church opponents and ultimately the universal reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

What is Total Consecration to Mary?

Consecration means setting oneself aside for service to God. The church has always advocated consecrating oneself to Jesus Christ through the blessed Virgin Mary, the perfect model of discipleship. Ancient witnesses include St. Toledo and Saint John Damascene; modern promoters include St. Louis De Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pope St. John Paul II and St. Mother Teresa.

Marian consecration is not in archaic spirituality, but is a living and active means of advancing the faith as a people of God. Pope St. John Paul II highlighted that St. Maximilian, by dying for another man in Auschwitz concentration camp and consecrating his life to the Immaculate Virgin, has become “a prophet and a sign of the era, the civilization of love.” The Holy Father clearly endorsed the Kolbean example of Marian consecration as a critical element of “the new evangelization” for the third Christian millennium, and St. Maximilian in heaven as a primary intercessor.

Am I Ready to Consecrate Myself and Join the MI?

The spirit of the Militia over the Immaculata is a spirit of continual conversion. Not everyone who enrolls as a member understands perfectly in the beginning the power of this consecration. But when lived in the spirit of willingness and

humility, the Immaculata will elevate natural gifts and inspire you to holiness and fruitful service within the church.

Consecrating yourself to Mary through the ideal of St. Maximilian will be one of the most important days of your life. You will be placing yourself under the mantle of Mary’s protective care as “Immaculate Conception,” “Mother of the Church,” and “Mediatrice of All Graces.” Through total consecration you become a cooperator with Mary in the work of building up and renewing the Church of the third millennium. She will lighten your mind, guide your will, power your efforts and intercede for you in a special way before the throne of the Father.

You will also share in the intercessory prayers of all the members of the Militia of the Immaculata, in particular of consecrated persons and priests, who pray daily for the success of the MI movement and the sanctification of its members.

Finally, you will have the support that comes from being a part of an international movement of spirituality. You will have access to Militia of the Immaculata conferences, pilgrimages, resource materials, such as its national e-publication, *The Knight of Immaculata*, and to regular mailings from the national office on how to better live out your consecration.

How Do I Enroll in the MI?

Your pastor is sponsoring a formal Marian consecration program in your parish at this time. The bulletin insert is part of the preparation process. Contact the parish office for more information.

You may also send for a free MI introductory brochure. It will take you through the steps of making your total consecration to Mary. After enrolling in the MI, you will receive a free Miraculous Medal and a frameable membership certificate.

Contact:

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